



Mrs. Elise Jones Martin

February 7, 1915 - June 1, 2023

Elise Jones Martin lived well past a century and passed on June 1, in Palo Alto, California, in the loving presence of her family.

Mrs. Martin was 108 and had lived through two pandemics and 12 US presidents. She was highly respected for her compassion, wisdom and accomplishments.

She served on many community, political and advocacy groups and was a trusted friend of U.S. Representative James Clyburn. Her bedroom held photos of her with former President Barak Obama when he was campaigning at Benedict College and with then Rep. Joe Biden at a Clyburn fish fry.

She taught Cosmetology at Booker T. Washington High School, owned several beauty salons including Elise Beauty Shop on Washington Street, which opened in in the late 1930s on what is known as "Black Wall Street." The shop with its art deco manicure tables and starched skirts was cited for demolition and she next became the first black woman to own a business on Main Street -- a wig shop and boutique.

The 2022 African American History Calendar featured her, and she served on numerous local groups including the Columbia Zoning Commission, Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development, the City Beautification

Committee, the Drew Park board and the Jones-McDonald Community Club, which was co-founded by her mother, Fannie Jones.

She moved to Palo Alto to live with her daughter, Loretta Martin Green, when she was 98 and continued her civic involvement. She stayed connected to Columbia acquaintances through long phone conversations and played Words with Friends on her iPad until age 106 when her vision decreased.

A celebration of her life will be held Saturday June 17 at 11 AM at Bethel AME Church, 819 Woodrow St., Columbia. Arrangements are being handled by Palmer Memorial Chapel of Columbia.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to a charity to be announced.

Family members left to cherish her memory include her son, Montez “Tommy” (Jacquie) Martin, Jr., Loretta Martin (Bill) Green, her “daughter, by God’s grace”, Sandra Hayes (Archie) Patterson. Also grandchildren, Nicole Elise Green, Inelle Lisa Green, Roderic Martin Green (Tammy) the late Bill Green Jr. and the late Tanya Elise Oubre (Kent) Pikel, Terrie Lanita (Wendell) Rayburn, Emily-Elise Martin, Montez C. (Angela) Martin III. Also cherishing her legacy are fifteen (15) great-grandchildren.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JUN 16. 12:00 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 786-6300
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Receiving Friends

JUN 16. 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel Public Viewing
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com

Lie in State

JUN 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel AME Church
819 Woodrow Street
Columbia, SC 29205

A Celebration of Life

JUN 17. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Bethel AME Church
819 Woodrow Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Elise Jones Martin*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Archie, Sandra, Lanita, Archie Patterson lit a candle in memory of Elise Martin*



Archie, Sandra, Lanita, Archie II Patterson - June 21, 2023 at 04:59 PM



“ *Doris Howell lit a candle in memory of Elise Martin*



Doris P Howell - June 21, 2023 at 01:32 PM



“ *One of my role models, I loved the grace, dignity and elegance of Ms. Elise Martin. We went to church together and she and Helen Gilliam were instrumental in my decision to pledge. I will always remember and appreciate her business savvy and community advocacy. It's wonderful growing up with such role models. My condolences to the Martin family. Ms. Elise's legacy to us all is a life well lived.*

Windy Carson-Smith, Esq.

Winifred Carson-Smith - June 19, 2023 at 01:02 AM

KN

“ *Katie Nash lit a candle in memory of Elise Martin*



Katie Nash - June 17, 2023 at 09:29 AM

KN

“ *I thank God for allowing my family, Mrs. Martin and her sisters paths to cross. When we moved back home from Ft. Bragg/Fayetteville, NC in 1994 and began attending Bethel AME, Mrs Martin and her sister welcomed us with opened arms and hearts, made us feel at home and helped us heal. I remember watching and learning from her as she served and impart her life’s wisdom on younger generations through instruction, guidance and support. God definitely broke the mold when He created this beautiful, intelligent, compassionate and determined spirit and allowed her to walk amongst us as a beacon of hope and light. Her contributions and impact to society are felt not only in South Carolina but all over the world because she touched the lives of so many both young and old. You’ve earned your rest Mamalise and you will be missed. We will always cherish the time, love and support you gave us. Condolences to your beautiful family and thank you for sharing her with us, making it easy for us to communicate with her and to share life events with her when she moved to California. We love you all and will keep you in our prayers.*

*Our Deepest Condolences 🌸
Katie, Katharine and Kristina Nash
Mrs. Theresa Dinkins*

Katie Nash - June 17, 2023 at 09:28 AM

CR

“ *My sincere condolences to the Martin family at the loss of an incredible lady! As a graduate of BTW, the Class of 1959, I did not know Mrs. Martin well while in high school. However, I had numerous encounters with Mrs. Martin as an adult in civic meetings, and in doing presentations before committees and boards that she served on throughout the years.*



Mrs. Martin was always joyful and positive, and just a wonderful person to work with. During my many conversations in recent years, I was always happy to discuss Mrs. Martin's previous activities with Montez Martin, my friend for decades. I will always honor my appreciation for such a graceful lady!

Chuck Ruff - June 16, 2023 at 03:46 PM

JF

“ *Jennings Family lit a candle in memory of Elise Martin*



Jennings Family - June 13, 2023 at 06:41 PM

TF

“ *Thomas Felder lit a candle in memory of Elise Martin*



Thomas Felder - June 13, 2023 at 09:26 AM

HB

“ *She was such a Sweet, Beautiful Lady, I remember in the 1960's when I was a student at B.T.W. High School she redid my hair because she was not happy with the results the student had done with the coloring on my hair. I am now taking care of my Mother in my home for the past three years, my Momma will be 103 year young on her birthday in November. To her daughter, I Truly Understand this Wonderful Blessing from God who allowed you to take care of your Mom! I know she is smiling from Heaven and telling you THANK YOU for a job WELL DONE 🙏❤️👑🌸*



Hazel Belton - June 11, 2023 at 03:45 PM

CW

Mrs. Elise Martin was my Cosmetologist Teacher in the 11th and 12th grade at Booker T. Washington High School. She made sure you learned Theory (meaning the bones and Arteries of your head before you ever got on the clinic floor. She was a kind and loving no nonsense Teacher. I am who I am today because of her and other shoulders I stand on. I love her and will miss her. Rest in Heaven Mrs. Martin Catherine McGorder Whatley

catherine mcGorder Whatley - June 14, 2023 at 07:44 PM

DP

“ In 1999, we were new to Columbia and joined Bethel AME, finding a church home. We were warmly greeted on Sundays by the elegant member, Mrs. Elise Martin. As a mother of Bethel, we found comfort in her Christian poise and Christ-like caring manner. Savannah GA has been home for over a decade now. Through the years of our reflections of "The Church", we see Mother Martin's image along with the building as one. It is the Church in Sister Martin that was an example for us all. Thank you for caring and sharing in our lives. Our condolences to the family and friends.

Drs. Lemuel and Patricia Patterson

Dr. Lemuel Patterson - June 11, 2023 at 10:54 AM

BB

“ To My Dear Sister Loretta, Bro Montez, and Sister Sandra I send love and Prayers from both my husband and I during this journey. It has been truly a blessing to have known such a beautiful spirit, a Queen, a woman of such dignity, elegance , wisdom yet humble with all of that and Godly showing love wherever she showed up. A smile and a hug always she brought along to give so gently and leave you with a feeling I just received some sweet love. How we thank God for all that He blessed her with and how she unselfishly gave of herself to others. Unto God be the Glory for her life. Sister Martin served at Bethel AME and taught us so much as young ladies when I first joined over 35 years ago. I will forever be grateful for her teachings . Thank you for sharing her with us. Sister Loretta thanks for allowing the phone calls to come through. Yes how she blessed my soul , my spirit with those conversations and I will indeed miss those times spent together. We will continue to lift each of you in prayer for strength as you continue through these moments, hours, days ahead while on this journey. God will see you through and be your comforter when needed.

Mrs Brenda Brown

Mr Dale Brown

Bethel AME Members

Brenda Brown - June 10, 2023 at 04:34 PM